

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

By Shipley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Band for its exemplary achievements.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the members of this General Assembly to honor those students whose proficiency in an art, craft, or trade has garnered them national accolades; and

WHEREAS, the art of creating music has long been an important part of humanity, serving as a voice for those traits that make us truly human, preserving our history, and forging bridges between diverse cultures; and

WHEREAS, recognition should be given to this State's young musicians for their excellent musical skills and their ability to work together as a marching band; and

WHEREAS, the Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Band took top honors in the U.S. Scholastic Band Association's (USSBA) Southern States Championship, held in Chattanooga at Finley Stadium on November 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Band is now ranked among the top 20 high school bands in the nation, following this year's Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Championship, which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 13-15, 2008; and

WHEREAS, recognized as the most prestigious marching band competition in the United States, the BOA competition showcases the most talented high school marching bands in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Dobyns-Bennett Marching Indians competed against 92 bands in the preliminary competition and were selected as one of the 33 bands to advance to the semi-final competition, finishing 18th overall; and

WHEREAS, as a result of its perennial dedication to the highest standards of musical and marching performance, the Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Band serves as the gold standard among its peers in the State of Tennessee and across this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, these remarkable student-musicians owe a great deal of their instruction and musical exposure to the constant and acute leadership of Director of Bands Lafe Cook, who is ably assisted by Associate Director Ryan Gilbert and Assistant Director Jason Walsh; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Cook's able leadership, the Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Band has grown to more than 385 members, each of whom is an exemplary ambassador of this State; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being named a 2006 Grammy Signature School by the Grammy Foundation, the Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Band was awarded the prestigious Sudler Flag of Honor in December of 2005; and

WHEREAS, recognized as the most prestigious international honor a band can achieve, the Sudler Flag is only given to those estimable programs with a full breadth of musical experiences, including concert, solo, ensemble, and marching; and

WHEREAS, with a rich and varied tradition of excellence, the Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Band has been performing and playing music for more than seventy-five years, always providing the judges and its audience with an exquisite display of unity; and

WHEREAS, the tremendous success of the Dobyns-Bennett Band program is made possible by the ample support of parents, boosters, local music educators, and the community; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Band represent their hometown of Kingsport and their home State of Tennessee with great pride, passion, and precision; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to these remarkable student-musicians for their hard work and many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of the Dobyns-Bennett

High School Marching Band on winning the U.S. Scholastic Band Association's Southern States Championship and on their remarkable success during the Bands of America Grand National Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.